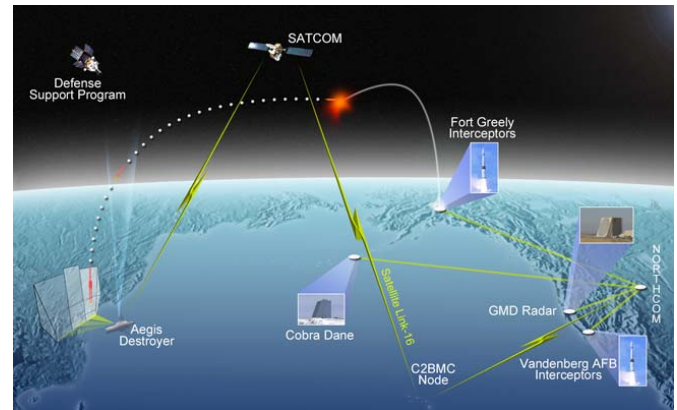




Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense

Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense is an element of the Missile Defense Agency's Ballistic Missile Defense System that contributes to the initial limited missile defense capability. Aegis builds upon the Aegis Weapon System, Standard Missile, and Navy Ballistic Missile Command, Control, Communications, Computers, and Intelligence systems. Aegis is at sea, on patrol, and ready to transition to Ballistic Missile Defense alert status, performing a strategic role in Homeland Defense.



Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense System Block 2004

- **Long Range Surveillance and Track**
 - Aegis Guided Missile Destroyer, on Ballistic Missile Defense patrol, detect and track Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles and report track data to the missile defense system. This capability shares tracking data to cue other BMDS sensors and provides fire control data to Ground-based Midcourse Defense for its interceptors located at Fort Greely, Alaska and Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif.
 - At sea tracking events have verified the capability to track Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles and demonstrated the connectivity and reliability of long-haul transmission of track data (across eight time zones) necessary to support missile defense situational awareness, target cueing, and engagements.
- **Engagement Capability**
 - Aegis Guided Missile cruisers and Long Range Surveillance and Track destroyers will be equipped with the capability to intercept short and medium range ballistic missile threats with the Standard Missile 3.
 - Flight tests are conducted using an operational warship, USS Lake Erie, operated by fleet sailors and officers. Each test progressively increases the operational realism and complexity of targets and scenarios. There have been four successful intercepts in five attempts to date. Next flight mission scheduled for early 2005.
 - Emergency capability in Spring 2005; operational capability in mid 2006.

Deployment

- Eight Pacific Fleet Aegis destroyers are equipped with the Long Range Surveillance and Track capability.
- A total of 15 Aegis destroyers will receive the Long Range Surveillance and Track capability.
- Three Aegis cruisers and three Aegis Long Range Surveillance and Track destroyers will be upgraded to the Block 2004 engagement capability by the end of 2006.
- All Aegis Long Range Surveillance and Track destroyers are planned to be upgraded with the engagement capability no later than 2009.

Future Capabilities

- Improved defense against short and medium range ballistic missiles; defense against intermediate and intercontinental ballistic missiles
- Enhanced Launch-on-Remote and Engage-on-Remote capabilities
- Increased Precision Track Data to the Ballistic Missile Defense System via radar signal processing upgrades, improving both Long Range Surveillance and Track and engagement capabilities
- Increased Radio Frequency and Infrared discrimination